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State Superintendent

DPI VISTA Monthly

October 2005



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*A goal without a plan is just a wish
-Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

The weather may have us fooled into believing that summer is still alive, but we all know that winter is lurking in the alley down the street. But do not despair! Do not fall into the winter blues! We all know how depressing winter can get and we do not want you to get depressed. Especially with all the VISTA work to be done during these chilly months.

The winter brings us indoors, closer to the heater and hot chocolate, and closer together as well. And I don't mean that in the mushy way. I mean simply that we must huddle for warmth. And in so doing, try to involve your school community. Get everyone together for fall activities such as some of the many we have listed in subsequent pages. The fall is great for cider and being outside (with a jacket). So enjoy and plan for the last outdoor activities we could see before snowball fights.

And while you're inside, jot down some of your successful events and brilliant ideas to share with the bunch. We really do want to hear the good news.

Now that we've all had the Action Team for Partnerships training and before you forget about what you learned: We'd like you to take some time and tell us what you thought about it and if it's made a difference in your approach to the Action Team at your school. -Stephanie Hogue and Megan O'Connell



Upcoming Events to Look Forward to:

October 14th Quarterly Reports are due!

November 8th NW Regional Meeting

November 15th SE Regional Meeting

November 16th NE Regional Meeting

November 17th SW Regional Meeting

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Money Tip of the Month



Money Saving Tip of the Month: **Distinguish between Wants and Needs:** You will save a ton of money if you don't mistake *wants* for *needs*. Needs are pretty simple to identify--those items that are necessary to sustain: Shelter, food, clothing, transportation. Wants are those things that enhance or possibly improve our family life. Have you ever heard (or said) "I absolutely *need*..." when the actual meaning was "I really *want*?" This is not to suggest that you shouldn't be able to have the things you want--only that to delude yourself into believing that a want is a need--and busting your budget in the process--is a recipe for financial disaster.

Updated Interview Schedule:

November: Lorrie Ryczek and Shoshannah Pass
December: Emily Johnson and Jennifer Kutska
January: Edwina Matthews and Lisa Fusco
February: Janice Welsh and Kelly Ranzen
March: Morgana Davis and Kristin Danielson
April: David Curtis and Mary Gutierrez
May: Megan O'Connell and Julie McGonigal
June: Karen Collins and Krista Larson
July: Kathryn Zboralski and Tamilyn Frey

Remember: 1) Interviews are supposed to be fun! 2) It should consist of approximately ten questions apiece 3) It should not be left until the last minute

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give
 -Sir Winston Churchill

Books to Read:

**Bridges out of Poverty* by Terie Dreussie Smith
 **Empress of the Splendid Season* by Oscar Hijuelos
 **Team Building Activities for Every Group* by Alanna Jones

Sites to See:

Craigslist www.craigslist.org

Craigslist.org is a free online community catch-all. Started by a man (named Craig, of course) in the San Francisco and the Bay Area, the number of communities with Craig's lists is constantly growing. There are currently pages for Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis (but people do post to all of these from various other Wisconsin cities on occasion). Whether you are looking for community activities to attend, volunteers, free stuff, or just about anything else, Craigslist is a good starting point.

Freecycle www.freecycle.org

Ever wondered what to do with useful items you just don't have any use for anymore? It seems a shame to throw them away, but maybe you just don't know anyone who will take them off your hands. Or maybe you've noticed that your curb-shopping hasn't been as fruitful as you'd hoped but you still need (free) stuff for your apartment. Freecycle.org is a collective of online communities (split up geographically, most are listservs or bulletin board services) dedicated to keeping things out of landfills and instead getting them to people who can use them. It's a great place to look for furniture, clothing, and almost any random knick-knack, and everything is free! You will have to join one of these groups to participate, and there are currently freecycle groups everywhere we have VISTAs (Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison area, Milwaukee, Oconto County, Oshkosh, Pepin/Pierce Counties, Spooner, and Waukesha County)! You can also use it to get free things for your site. You can post wanted lists for such things as children's books, Spanish children's books, puzzles, games, and so on.

National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools
www.sdl.org/connections/

Grant Opportunities

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=14600008 **National Gardening Association and Home Depot Present the Youth Garden Grants Program** The [National Gardening Association](#) and the [Home Depot](#) will award Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. Due Date Nov. 30

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=15300070 **Let's Just Play Nickelodeon Grant** Rolling until May 2006
Winning schools get 5,000 for school

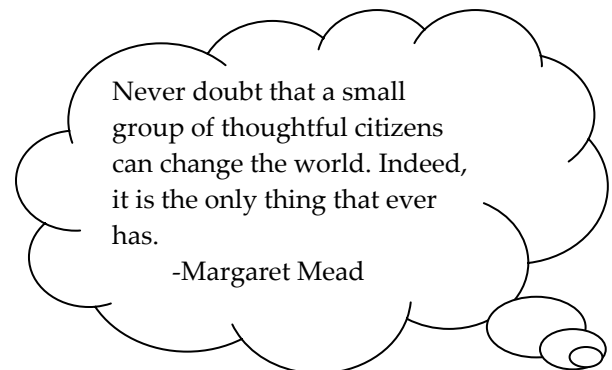
http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=112600067 **Starbucks Foundation Offers Funding for Youth Literacy Programs** Through its Giving Voice program, the [Starbucks Foundation](#), a philanthropic vehicle of the Starbucks Coffee Company, will fund programs for youth, ages 6-18, that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=107800019 **MTV and Youth Venture Announce New Grant Program for Young People** [MTV: Music Television](#) has announced the launch of its new pro-social initiative, think MTV, which is designed to inform and empower young people to take action on social issues.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=94000040 **KaBOOM! Announces 2005 Playground Opportunities** KaBOOM! has announced ongoing opportunities to build new, safe playgrounds across North America. This opportunity would be a great way to build community ties that will be required to last long after the VISTA lifetime. No Deadline

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=34400034 **RadioShack Announces New Grants Program for Child and Family Safety Efforts** The program is designed to fund worthy causes that help families protect children from abduction, violence, and abuse. No deadline.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=25100012 **Target Stores and the Tiger Woods Foundation Restructure Start Something Scholarship Program for Young People** Start Something, a program that helps young people pursue their dreams and goals and encourages youth leadership and community stewardship. Various end dates, including January.





Seasonal Events



Wisconsin Book Festival

<http://www.wisconsinbookfestival.org/overview/index.php> sessions all day, book sales everyday, books, books, books, books! Who could ask for anything more? **October 13-17**

Bayfield Scarecrow Festival & Orchard Tours

<http://www.savorwisconsin.com/events/eventDetails.asp?recid=185&type=Producer%2FConsumer+Event>
All Day 9/16 - 10/31/2005 FREE!

Pumpkin Patch Fest Harbor View Park in Egg Harbor Fall colors add to the Columbus Day weekend festival in Egg Harbor. All day music and fun at Harbor View Park. Scarecrows and pumpkin displays throughout the village. Silent auction, farmer's market and more. For information call 920-868-3717 or visit the website. <http://www.eggharbor-wi.com>
October 8-9

Sister Bay Fall Festival Children's activities, 5 & 10 mile run on Sunday, parade on Saturday, food booths, live entertainment, fireworks, ping pong ball drop and much more! For general information call 920-854-2812. For parade information call 920-854-2356. For run information call 920-839-9164. **October 14-16**

Mauston - Haunted Halloween at Red Ridge Ranch.

Hay Maze, Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkin Painting/Carving, Scarecrow Stuffing Contest, Corn Maze, Petting Zoo, and Haunted Hayrides (dusk till 10 pm). On dates 7-9, 14-16, 20-23, and 28-31. Red Ridge Ranch Riding Stable. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 6:00PM. For more information call (888) 847-2272. **October 7 - 31**
http://www.wistravel.com/wisconsinevents_october.htm

New Glarus - Octoberfest in New Glarus.

Traditional Swiss music, yodeling, and alphorns, wagon rides, bake sale, local historical displays and craft demonstrations. Sun - Civil War Reenactments, Cheese, Sausage & Broom making demonstrations. Downtown New Glarus & Swiss Historical Village. For more information call 800-527-6838. **October 7-9**

Eagle - Autumn on the Farms. Take part in the historic rituals of autumn just as our rural ancestors did in preparing for the coming of the long winter. A steam-powered sawmill, draft horse demonstrations and pioneer harvesting techniques are among the many exciting things to see. Stop by the Crossroads Village to see the blacksmith shoeing horses and a wheelwright making wagon wheels. Old World Wisconsin. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 5:00PM. For more information call 262-594-6300.
October 15-16

Wisconsin Dells - Autumn Harvest Fest.

Fun activities for the entire family including hay & pony rides, craft fair, clowns, straw dig, live entertainment and more! Contests for pumpkin decorating, pumpkin ring toss and scarecrow stuffing. On Saturday "Wisconsin Dells on Tap" Micro-brew tasting (must be over 21). On Sunday Homebrew Contest. For additional festival info and event schedule and event schedule call Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau at (800) 223-3557 Wisconsin Dells Festival Site, La Crosse Street Parking Lot, Dells River District, Downtown Wisconsin Dells.
October 15-16

Baraboo - Halloween Candelight Mystery Hike.

Come enjoy hiking on 1 mile of candle/torch lit trails and try to solve the "Mirror Lake Mystery". Join friends of Mirror Lake afterwards by the campfire for

hot dogs, beverages & baked goods, which will be available for a nominal fee. Mirror Lake State Park. Event starts at 6:30PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-2333. **October 22**

North Freedom - Mid-Continent Railway Pumpkin Special. Bring the kids and a camera for a train ride through the scenic Wisconsin countryside to our pumpkin patch; then, pick out your own pumpkin. Mid-Continent Railway Museum. Event starts at 10:30AM and ends at 3:30PM. For more information call 800-930-1385. **October 22-23**

Portage - PumpkinFest. Bring your carved or decorated pumpkins to receive free admission into PumpkinFest. Help Portage set a World Record for the most carved or decorated pumpkins in a row as we line the Wisconsin River Levee with the pumpkins at dusk on Saturday the 22nd. Edgewater Street. Event starts at 12:00PM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call 608-742-6242. **October 22**

Stoughton - Lake Kegonsa State Park Candlelight Hike. Enjoy a leisurely hike through a candlelit trail and then finish the evening off with a bonfire and snacks. Event is free but you do need a sticker to enter the park. Lake Kegonsa State Park. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (888)873-7912. **October 22**

Sheboygan - Natarpana Dance Company: Indian Traditions. Learn henna hand painting, Indian footwork, and the use of hand gestures and facial expressions to tell a story. Natarpana Dance Company specializes in one of the most celebrated art forms of southern India, Bharatnatyam. Immerse yourself in the rhythmic footwork and storytelling through dance. Admission \$7 each (\$5 members/students through age 21) John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Event starts at 12:30PM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call 920-458-6144. **October 23**

Wisconsin Dells - Halloween Celebration. Halloween Celebration - hay rides to the pumpkin patch, carving pumpkins, kids Halloween party, Haunted Hike on the golf course! Call for details. Christmas Mountain Village. For more information call (608) 254-3944. **October 29**

Baraboo - Boo Fest! Safe Halloween trick or treating for area children, costume contest, hay wagon rides, and more. Downtown historic courthouse square. Downtown. Event starts at 2:00PM and ends at 5:00PM. For more information call 608-356-7995. **October 31**

Recipe of the Month

Granola

8 cups rolled oats
1 ½ cups brown sugar
1 ½ cups wheat germ
8 oz. coconut
1 ½ cups cashews or sunflower seeds
½ cup olive oil
¾ cup honey
2 tsp. vanilla

Stir oats, sugar, wheat germ, coconut and seeds/nuts together. Heat oil and honey on stove until bubbly. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Mix wet and dry ingredients together and spread evenly on greased cookie sheets. You will need more than one. Bake at 325 for 15-20 minutes, stir once.

You may also add any dried fruits you like! Raisins, banana chips, pineapple chunks, cranberries and more!

And Just When You Thought You Had Enough...



There Are Corn Mazes to Consider

Schoph Farm *Contact: Dennis Schoph Phone Number: (920) 743-2238 Location: 5655 Mathey Rd. Sturgeon Bay, WI 5435 Design: Packers Cost: \$6 Free for kids 5 and under Open: Until Nov. 10*
<http://www.mazeplay.com/showmaze.php?maze=42>

Hidden Trails Corn Maze *Phone Number: (608) 786-2489 Location: W4707 Hwy 16 West Salem, WI 54669 Design: Jungle Cost: \$6 adults \$4 kids 6-11 Free 5 and under Open: Until Oct. 31*
<http://www.mazeplay.com/showmaze.php?maze=81>

Arcadia Area Historical Society *Contact: Carol Berklund Phone Number: (608) 323-7143 Location: Hwy 93 and Dettloff Ave. Arcadia, WI 54612 Design: Draft Horse and Arcadia's 150 Years Open: Weekends in October Cost: \$6 adults kids 12 and under \$3 and kids under 4 are Free*

For more, really neat-o mazes, even ones that have haunted mazes please go to:
http://www.google.com/Top/Games/Puzzles/Mazes/Outdoors/Corn/United_States/Wisconsin/

Stacey Farms on the top of this list looks really incredible! They have both a haunted maze *and* hayride! You can get a discount if you do both.

Invest in Yourself: While we may not be able to save money *right now*, we can certainly work on saving ourselves money down the road. One of the best ways to do this is to invest in our health. This month, try to add more fiber to your diet. It can aid in weight loss, help fight heart disease, and reduce some cancer risks. Fiber rich foods include: raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, rye, broccoli, green beans, apples (with skin), spinach, beet greens, kale, collard, swiss chard, turnip greens, almonds, brazil nuts, peanuts, walnuts, cherries, brussel sprouts and stone ground whole wheat. You can visit http://seniorhealth.about.com/cs/nutrition/a/diet_fiber.htm for more information.

*Interview between
Nina Pagaduan and
Alice Baldini*

**creative license taken by Megan
O'Connell*

**A1: Nina, why did you want
to become a VISTA?**

N: Starting off with the hard questions. I became a VISTA because I wanted to work with immigrants.

N1: I'll start you off with an easier one than mine! Where were you born?

A: I was born in Norman, Wisconsin in Kewaunee County.

A2: What has been your most memorable moment as a VISTA?

N: Another hard one. Let me think. Hmm. I would have to say that being able to work with 10 DPI Summer Associates and the VASD VISTA team would be something I will always remember.

A: That is interesting. It must have made for a fun summer too.

N2: Okay, umm. What is your favorite color?

A: Blue.

N: Okay. I guess that one was a little too easy!

A3: Name the last movie you saw in a theater.

N: *Lord of War*.

A: Oh, with Nicolas Cage. I've heard of that. So you're just going to give us the title and not tell us whether it was any good or not, eh?

N: It was very interesting. I highly recommend it!

N3: All right, so I asked you your favorite color and place of birth, so I guess I should follow it up with your favorite dish. This way we'll get to know all your favorite things!

A: Sure, no problem. Everyone can get me

something blue and feed me spaghetti on my birthday. I'll be happy!

N: Spaghetti. That's a good favorite dish because you can have it whenever you want.

A4: I'll ask you some about the things you like too. Who is your favorite author?

N: That's a tough non-VISTA question. I would have to say that J.K. Rowling is my favorite. I love Harry Potter!

A: Do you have a favorite in the series?

N: *Goblet of Fire*

N4: Okay, now I will give you some hard ones too. What is your favorite VISTA moment?

A: I should have known you would give me such a hard one too! Okay, I have it. My favorite moment or time has been seeing staff working on continuing programs that were started through my VISTA work. It's nice to see something I've worked hard on continued and able to work without me.

A5: You've had a lot of thought provoking questions so I'll give you a break this time. What is your favorite food?

N: I like this question. It's really easy. I like anything with lots of sugar!

A: (*laughing*) That is an easy one. We don't even have to have a special birthday dinner for you. We just have to get you the cake!

N: Yep.

N5: What has been your most difficult challenge? You've been a VISTA for a long time, so I'm sure you have at least one.

A: Oh yes. I think that the hardest thing I had to deal with was getting some of the staff to work with and accept volunteers in their classrooms. You want to help and you are giving staff a great resource, and when they fight it or aren't appreciative, it's hard.

N: Yikes, that is hard. It must make you rethink what you're doing.

A: Sometimes. But you keep going and things start to work.

A6: Tell me about your pets or any pet you would like to own.

N: My dog, Bubbles, died this summer.

A: I'm so sorry. That's terrible.

N: I was traumatized.

A: I'm really sorry. Let's move on.

N6: Okay. Umm. What is the most important thing you have learned in your VISTA career?

A: Your questions just keep getting harder! I have learned that you can't do it all, but you can make a difference.

N: That's a good, hard thing to learn.

A: Yes it is.

A7: What has been your greatest challenge since you have become a VISTA?

N: It has definitely been getting the staff to know and to understand my role as a VISTA.

A: That is a challenge.

N: Yeah, I wish we could come in and everyone would already know who I am and what I'll be doing.

A: That'd be like a dream come true.

N7: What do you plan to do after VISTA?

A: That is a good question. It is drawing to a close quickly. I am interested in pursuing some horticulture/landscaping courses at CVTC.

N: That'd be really neat.

A: Yeah, I think so. I'll probably also add my name to the list of substitute teachers. And also travel.

N: That sounds like a good plan to me!

A8: So now that you know my plans, what are yours?

N: They're not as developed as yours. I really have no idea.

A: That's okay too. You'll find something.

N: Yeah, I think so. It'll happen.

N8: Do you have any advice for current and future VISTAs?

A: Yes. It's short and sweet too, so it's easy to remember!

Focus on what works best.

N: That is short and sweet.

A: And it works. We can't dwell in impossibilities.

They'll only drag us down.

N: True.

A9: Along the same vein, is there anything you would do differently as a VISTA if you had to start over?

N: I would've spent more time with Dave, Morgana and Emily at the Retro Café in Verona eating key lime pie. Just kidding! I would have been more assertive

N9: What will you miss the most when you leave?

A: The kids.

N: They really do make everything worth it, don't they?

A: They sure do.

A10: And for the grand finale: Is there anything you would do differently in your life if you were starting over?

N: I guess I would've taken philosophy during my undergrad years.

A: That's not too much to change at all. That's good.

N10: And for your final question, do you feel satisfied with your work as a VISTA?

A: YES!



Have a great October!